

OPTION: HELP AND ADVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

BUDGET SAVING: £350,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

The Council provides a service for people who are over 65, which is called the 'promoting older people's independence network', or 'POPIN'. This service is about giving older people, who are not eligible for services under Fair Access to Care criteria, support about benefits, and how to access other voluntary and Council services.

The option in this area is to stop providing the service, and instead use existing contracts with a number of voluntary and community organisations to provide the service on our behalf.

This service aims to increase independence, improve access to health and wellbeing services, and also to delay the need for more intensive care as people get older.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

The Council does not have a statutory obligation to provide this service. There are a range of other organisations providing similar services in the voluntary, community and faith sector. Similar advice and guidance is also available from the Council's One Stop Shops.

IMPACT

Staffing implications include 1 Team Support Officer and 10 FTE Advisor posts (of which one is currently vacant).

There may be a risk that individuals will not be able to access alternative services (in the voluntary community and faith sectors) so readily without the support of POPIN. Alternative routes for information and advice in the voluntary community and faith sectors will need to be established.

MITIGATION

Similar services providing advice and guidance are available from the Council's One Stop Shops and voluntary and community organisations and demand for these services may increase. The voluntary, community and faith sector is already aware that a review of existing contracts and grant payments is underway.